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STATEMENT MADE BY ACTING SECRETARY-GENERAL U THANT
ON ARRIVAL AT IDLEWILD AIRPORT, 31 OCTOBER

I return from Havana after fruitful discussions with the leaders of Cuba. These discussions were conducted strictly in the context of my correspondence with Premier Fidel Castro, resulting from the proceedings of the Security Council meetings. There was agreement that the United Nations should continue to participate in the peaceful settlement of the problem.

During my stay in Havana, I was reliably informed that the dismantling of the missiles and their installations was already in progress and that this process should be completed by Friday. Thereafter, there would come their shipment and return to the Soviet Union, arrangements for which are understood to be in hand.

One last word. At my request, the Cuban Government has agreed to return, on humanitarian grounds, the body of Major Anderson to the United States.

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(Note: The Acting Secretary-General, on arrival at Idlewild Airport tonight, was met by Evgeny D. Kiselev, UN Under-Secretary for Political and Security Council Affairs; C.V. Narasimhan, UN Under-Secretary for General Assembly Affairs and Chief de Cabinet; Charles P. Noyes, Counsellor of the United States Mission to the United Nations; and Juan Juarbe, Counsellor of the Mission of Cuba to the United Nations.)

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